

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

This Interview Summary is further to the Examiner's Interview with the undersigned Applicants' Representative on January 21, 2004. A Proposed Amendment was submitted prior to the Interview. During the Interview, the amendments to Claims 6-11, 15, and 17 were discussed with respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Independent Claims 16-17 and 23 (as amended in the Proposed Amendment) were also discussed with respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection. Applicants' Representative pointed out that U.S. Patent Nos. 5,849,247 ("Uzan"); 5,048,957 ("Berthold"); 5,643,535 ("Smethers"); and 5,637,874 ("Honzawa") do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended Claims 16-17 and 23. In particular, it was noted that Uzan, Berthold, Smethers, and Honzawa do not teach or suggest a light-proof shoe that is directly pressed against a planar rim of a vessel. The Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments would overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 and 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections.

REMARKS

Claims 6-11, 15-17, and 19-23 are pending in the application. Applicants have amended Claims 6-11, 15-17, and 23 in this Amendment. Examination and consideration are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action dated October 21, 2003, Claims 6-11, 15, 17, 19-21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite.

Applicants have amended Claims 6-11, 15, and 17 to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action dated October 21, 2003, Claims 16-17, 19-21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Uzan in view of Berthold, Smethers, and Honzawa.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 16-17 and 23 overcome this rejection. As discussed during the Interview, Uzan, Berthold, Smethers, and Honzawa do not teach or suggest, among other things, a light-proof shoe that is directly pressed against a planar rim of a vessel.

Claims 19-21 depend from independent Claim 17, and are therefore allowable for the same and other reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

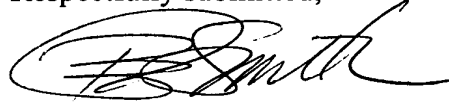
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 6-11 and 15 are allowable.

Applicants will comment on the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance after all of the pending claims are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billie Jean Smith", written in a cursive style.

Billie Jean Smith

Reg. No. 36,940

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